



Queen of the 1959 Wasatch County Centennial was Marion Johnson, center. Her attendants were Beverly Seiter, left and Joan Ritchie, right.

"Sweetheart of Yesteryears," with her attendants Elizabeth Moulton and Alice Thacker. "Miss Wasatch of 1959" was Marion Johnson, with attendants Joan Ritchie and Beverly Seiter. "Miss Dairy Princess" was Connie North, with attendants Mary Alder, Linda McGuire and Connie Pope.

Parades, band concerts, displays, exhibits, carnival rides and attractions, beard growing contests, suppers, luncheons and barbeques, flower shows and entertainment programs were all combined to make the 100th birthday party a celebration long to be remembered. Chairmen of the centennial event were Arvel and Dove McAfee.

Another cultural endeavor promoted by the county commission was the establishment of a county library. The first action on a library came April 10, 1919, when money was approved and a board of directors appointed.

The library was to be located in Heber City, and quarters were selected above the Heber Mercantile Company. Members of the first board of directors included John M. Ritchie, John A. Fortie, Storm McDonald, Nellie C. DeGraff and Ida Wootton. A tax levy not to exceed one mill on each dollar of taxable property in the county was approved to be used in establishing and maintaining the library. All other efforts to establish a library, such as the Heber City Library in 1907 and the early Literary Club Library, were merged with the county library when it was established.

Wasatch  
County  
Library



Beard growing was a popular contest during the 1959 County Centennial Celebration. Some of the prize "crops" are shown here on their owners, left to right, seated: Jack Moulton, Reg Tadd, Willis Clyde, Ray Kohler and Charles McPhie; and standing, left to right, Glen Jensen, Albert Winterrose, Grant Giles, Ken Ryan, Leslie McPhie, Stacey Murdock and Farrell Reynolds.

Quarters above the mercantile store were used for a short time and then the library was moved to part of the Heber Merc that had been occupied by the C. W. & M. Company. It was there until 1937 when the building and the entire library, except for books on loan at the time.

Temporary quarters were given to the library in the L.D.S. Seminary Building near Wasatch High School, and investigations were started to find another site. A building at the site of the present Ideal Cafe was rented, and then on August 30, 1938, a new building was begun as a cooperative venture with the county and the Works Progress Administration. Gronamon & Son, Contractors of Provo received the bid for construction for \$21,990. The completed building was accepted on October 6, 1939. The library continued its growth in new quarters under the able direction of Mrs. Nellie C. DeGraff.

Another library milestone came in 1952 when the library board and the Wasatch County Board of Education signed an agreement on May 14, to consolidate the facilities, books, financial resources and personnel of the county and school libraries. The joint administration, which improved services and facilities for both groups, has continued from September, 1952 to the present time. The capable, efficient librarian is Clyde Muir.





Co-Chairmen of the 1959 Wasatch County Centennial celebration were Arvel and Dove McAfee.

Members of the county commission also cooperated in improving Memorial Hill as a monument to servicemen of World War I. Main impetus for the memorial came from H. Clay Cummings and Sumner Hatch, officers of the Lockhart Post of the American Legion. D. A. Broadbent was also instrumental in having legislation passed enabling counties in the state to levy local taxes for memorial purposes. With these funds Wasatch County was able to purchase the hill and surrounding land. Much of the land was purchased from Elijah Watkins. Under Mr. Broadbent's personal supervision the spiral road up to the hill was constructed, and a memorial and beacon placed on top. The beacon was lighted each evening until vandals and pot-shot riflemen destroyed it beyond repair.



Members of the 1959 Wasatch County Centennial celebration fair board, left, front row, left to right, Dove McAfee, LaPreal Barnes, Betty Jones, Ida Watkins, Emily Conrad and Mary Bacon. Back row, left to right, Leslie McPhie, Wilson Young, William Sweeney, Earl Smith, William Jordan, Don Barker and Arvel McAfee, back.

Other projects promoted by the commission have included erection of a Memorial Building and fire station in 1934; construction of the Heber Valley Airport; establishment of transmitter stations to improve television reception in the valley and many zoning projects that have enhanced property values throughout the county.



The Wasatch County Library constructed in 1938 and 1939.

Through sound budgetary policies, most of the county roads are hard surfaced and maintained in good condition. Funds are also being set aside for construction of a new courthouse. By the time work begins, funds will have been accumulated to permit payment without burdensome bonding programs.

For over a century the selectmen and commissioners of Wasatch County have given mature, devoted and wise leadership in helping the county to grow and to provide the services necessary for comfortable life living.

Even though salaries have never been enough and rewards have had to come through the joys of service, those who have served could, almost in a chorus, join with the selectmen of some 70 years ago who recorded in their minutes at the close of a lengthy session of problems, complaints, rulings and decisions, "They adjourned the Court and departed, feeling pretty well satisfied with their labors."

Protestant schools came to Wasatch County about 1883, and were welcomed because of the shortage of teachers in the valley. In fact, Latter-day Saint officials even helped the teachers become situated in the valley, realizing the cultural influence many of them would exert in the area.

The Congregationalists and Methodists were most influential in the Wasatch area. The first school was established by the New West Educational Commission, one of the societies of the Congregational Church. Known as the New West School, it was located on the corner of 1st North and 2nd East. Miss Angie L. Steele was the first teacher and she soon had more than 40 pupils. Some of the teachers, Miss Steele, Jennie Clafin, a Miss Shepherd, a Mrs. Rand, Miss Shute, Miss Crosby, Miss Lester and Miss Stoner, to mention only a few, are still remembered affectionately and favorably by some of the older valley residents. When Miss Shute died she willed a considerable sum of money to the Wasatch County Library.

The Methodists opened a church and a school on the corner of Center Street and 1st West, a site which is now occupied by the Second-Fifth Ward Chapel of the LDS Church. Miss Ella Young was an early teacher in this Methodist School. The big issue of the day then was prohibition, and she took every opportunity to promote it.

Most of the teachers were single women from the East and were very well educated. They brought a cultural and intellectual influence into the frontier country that contributed greatly in refining the communities in which they lived.

Early educational efforts by the LDS Church were centered largely in the Wasatch Stake Academy which was established in Heber City.

In July, 1888, Wilford Woodruff, President of the Church, wrote a letter of instructions to President Abram Hatch of Wasatch Stake concerning the establishment of a stake board of education and the beginning of a stake academy.

With his counselors, President Hatch chose eight men, one from each of the wards of the stake, to serve on the board of education. They immediately formulated plans for the construction of a school building.

However, school work began before the building was completed. At a meeting of the board on August 2, 1889, Enoch Jorgensen was appointed principal of the Academy. He held his first classes in the back room of the Stake Tabernacle. Other Academy locations included the upper story of the Courthouse, the old Relief Society building on the northeast corner of the Tithing Office Block, the old "Social Hall," and upstairs in the rock building housing Carter's Store. The Carter's Store had also housed the Congregational School for a period.

When Mr. Jorgensen was appointed principal the board determined that the academic year would be divided into four terms beginning September 9, 1889. The terms would continue through June 27. Tuition was set at \$4 a term, paid in advance. Those who came from commu-